

Communiqué

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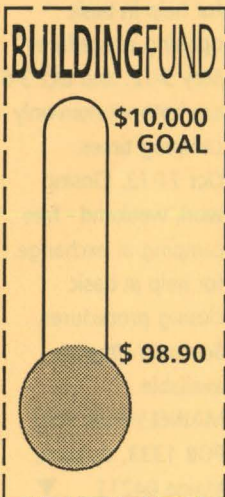
MORE CLERGY RESPOND TO SURVEY

Since our last newsletter, three more responses to the survey sent during December and January have been received. The survey, sent by the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline, asked if area physicians, dentists, lawyers, and clergy would accept referrals from the Phoneline. These referrals would be in response to phone inquiries for a gay-supportive doctor, lawyer, or clergy, someone who welcome us and would not be judgemental. During April three more clergy have replied:

Rev. EDWINA. VONDERHEIDE, *Stetson Memorial United Methodist Church, Patten*: "I know that homosexual preference is not seen as a mental or psychological disorder and I do not believe that seeking to change such orientation is constructive in pastoral counseling. Yet because I believe human sexuality is a complex thing, I believe that it should be helpful to discuss the matter in a non-judgmental way if so requested. I certainly would not reject such requests."

Rev. RENÉ T. MATHIEU, *Church of the Holy Rosary, Caribou*: "I would most certainly be willing to accept referrals from the Gay-Lesbian Phoneline."

Rev. THOMAS J. BEAM, *Aroostook Lutheran Parish (Faith Lutheran Church, Caribou, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Stockholm)*: "Given the ministry of Word and Sacrament in which I find myself, I am comfortable in committing to you what time I can make available for oral counseling...However, to avoid confusion, this ministry of reconciliation between God and human beings through Jesus Christ, being so rooted in the Living Word, does not commend me to condone nor bless human sexual unions which reside outside norms stated in Holy Scripture. With these parameters in mind, therefore, I repeat my offer of my services to you based upon the constraints of pastoral time available." ▼



IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...

MAINE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL FAILS TO PASS AGAIN

For the seventh time the Maine Legislature has failed to pass a Gay-Lesbian Civil Rights Bill. The efforts of the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance (MLGPA) and their allies fell just short of victory in 1991.

The bill was an amendment to the Maine Human Rights Act which would have added the term "sexual orientation" to the list of protected categories dealing with discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation and credit in Maine. It passed the Maine Senate 14-13 but lost in the House of Representatives by six votes; nine House members who supported the bill the last time it was introduced (1989) opposed the legislation this time. Despite political maneuverings, it failed to gain sufficient votes on a second tally of legislators.

concluded on page 4

CHALLENGE TO NEW BIBLE TRANSLATION

Dignity, an organization of gay and lesbian Catholics, has challenged on both scriptural and pastoral grounds the new translation of 1 Corinthians 6,9 and 1 Timothy 1,10 as they currently appear in the new edition of the New American Bible (NAB). NAB editors translated 1 Cor 6,9 as, "Do you not know that the unjust will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters nor adulterers nor boy prostitutes nor practicing homosexuals...will inherit the Kingdom of God." The term "practicing homosexuals" is also used in a similar series of evildoers in 1 Tim 1,10.

In a report to respective Bishops' committees that oversee the publication of the NAB

concluded on page 2

BOOK REPORT

TWO library parties were held during April at Northern Lambda Nord's lending library, **Bibliothèque Lambda**. A form was filled out on every volume in the collection and the total is **932!** The volunteers - Roger M. Roger T., Ray, Doug, Jody, Phil, Dick, and Dennis (who organized the books and book party) should be commended for all the work; it took more than 60 "manhours" to complete the task. This information will now go into the computer and, when complete, a master library list will be sent to each Lambda member.

To give people an idea of what's in *Bibliothèque Lambda*, a sampling of books in the library is published in *Communiqué* each month.

☞ **GAY AMERICAN HISTORY; Lesbians and gay Men in the U.S.A.** by Jonathan Katz (1976). "Unique among books about Gay people, this pioneering work brings together for the first time a large group of historical chronicles of American Lesbian and Gay life, coupled with the heterosexual attitudes of the era. Intended for an audience of all sexual persuasions, these selections reflect a new, historical view of this once-silent, invisible minority and a dramatic reappraisal of American life, from Alexander Hamilton's love letters to John Laurens, to the forgotten autobiography and insane asylum records of a feminist transvestite of the 19th century, to lesbianism in the life of blues great Bessie Smith, and to the present in a 1976 report of the first Gay liberation organization of American Indians."

☞ **A WOMAN SPEAKS: The Lectures, Seminars, and Interview of Anaïs Nin**

(1975). "In this book Anaïs Nin speaks with warmth and urgency on those themes which have always been closest to her: relationship, creativity, the struggle for wholeness, the unveiling of woman, the artist as magician, women reconstructing the world, moving from the dream outward, and experiencing our lives to the fullest possible extent."

☞ **A BOY'S OWN STORY** by Edmund White (1982) This, his third novel, is full of "pungent observation, wonderful language and convincing sensuality. This novel about seduction and maturity, about America and about 'homosexual fate,' is a large and happy accomplishment." — Susan Sontag.

continued from page 1

NEW BIBLE

and the lectionary based on it, Dignity cited several Biblical scholars who concluded that the passages did not refer to persons with a homosexual orientation. These passages as they currently stand are pastorally harmful and could provoke violence against lesbians and gays from individuals who use the Bible as a defense for violence or prejudicial behavior. Alternatives suggested for the phrase "practicing homosexuals" include "the morally infamous" or "ethically infamous"; for "boy prostitutes" they recommend "morally loose" or "ethically soft". The Bishops Lectionary Subcommittee is giving consideration to the findings in Dignity's report.

For more information: Tom Farley, POB 103, North Sullivan, Maine 04464 ▼

"TO ALL WIMMIN:"

MAINLY FOR YOU is a "commercial campground that is making available time that will be for wimmin only." It's a 65-acre campground on a 218-acre pond. They have water & electric hook-ups on every site, 20 rustic cottages with full baths and modern conveniences, plus wilderness sites. There are currently women-only time slots during the year; the space will eventually be women-only all the time, if the demand warrants.

Special dates are:
 May 2-5, Opening work weekend - free camping in exchange for help in basic opening procedures.
 May 9-12, and Oct 3-6 are both women-only camping times.
 Oct 11-13, Closing work weekend - free camping in exchange for help in basic closing procedures.
 Seasonal sites are available.

MAINLY FOR YOU
 POB 1333, Auburn, Maine 04211 ▼

Do more
 than belong.
 Participate.



The Maine Lesbian & Gay Film Festival 1991

Once again a dedicated group of Portland people known as **Out & Out Productions** is bringing us the second annual Maine Film Festival featuring films and videos which portray lesbians and gaymen of all ages, races, and class backgrounds, films which explore lesbian and gay lives in personal terms, and films which emphasize gay and lesbian issues in societies other than our own.

Opening night is Friday, May 10, 7pm at the Portland Museum of Art. The evening's events will include two films, a gayla reception (catered by some of Portland's best restaurants), and a surprise or two.

The Festival moves to the Portland Performing Arts Center Saturday and Sunday, May 11 & 12. Films and videos will be shown simultaneously from noon until midnight Saturday, and from noon till 6pm Sunday. Independent, foreign, and experimental films, as well as major releases and shorts will be shown.

Preliminary listing of this year's films: *Tongues Untied*; *Oranges are Not the Only Fruit*; *James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket*;

An Empty Be; *Common Theads*; *Paris is Burning*; *Night Out*; *I Got This Way From Kissing Girls*; *Ballad of Reading Gaol*; *Salut Victor*; and *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*.

TICKETS - THREE OPTIONS: (1) **WEEK-END PASS** - admission to all films and all three days *if you arrive at the theatre 15 minutes before each showing* - \$27 until May 9; \$32 on May 10. (2) **DAY PASSES** - available at the door for all three days - Friday is \$12, Saturday is \$17, and Sunday is \$12. *Arrive 15 minutes before each show to guarantee your seat.* (3) **SINGLE TICKETS** - \$5 each, sold at the door Saturday & Sunday for that day's films. *NO single tickets sold for Friday.*

BOX OFFICE opens Friday at 5pm, Saturday & Sunday at 11am. For **WEEKEND PASSES** call 828-4714 or write to **OUT & OUT PRODUCTIONS**, POB 7982, Portland 04112. Mail order tickets received after May 3 are held at the door in your name. **VIDEOS - ADMISSION** to video screenings is on a first-come, first-served basis. Any festival ticket will admit you to the video screening room, space permitting. ▼

NEW/NOUVEAU- BRUNSWICK UPDATE

It was reported last month that the New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform/*Coalition pour la réforme des droits de la personne au Nouveau-Brunswick* received a grant for \$54,000. The grant was awarded by Canada Health and Welfare, a government agency. According to a Coalition spokesperson, the organization will not be using the money for "postage and other...office expenses", as reported in this column. Instead, the money has been designated for a "health needs assesment" for the lesbian-gay community in the province and not for their political/lobbying work.

The political goal of the Coalition is inclusion of "sexual orientation" in the New Brunswick Human Rights Code. ▼

NEWS & FEATURES
in this issue were from: *The ADVOCATE* (Los Angeles), *NEWSLETTER* of the New Brunswick Coalition for Human Rights Reform/*Coalition pour la réforme des droits de la personne au Nouveau-Brunswick* (Fredericton), the International Lesbian and Gay Association (Brussels, Belgium) and *New York magazine* (New York City). ▼

SO THEY SAY

I realized in our culture if you don't have a penis, the only true contribution you can make is to lose 20 pounds. Any of your accomplishments pale in comparison. Ask Oprah Winfrey. - Tyne Daly, former Cagney and Lacey co-star, on her recent weight loss.



COUNTY LEGISLATORS SUPPORT OUR CIVIL RIGHTS

Three members of the Aroostook County Delegation, all from the House of Representatives, voted in favor of LD 430, a bill to amend the Maine Human Rights Act. All three will be honored at the May 4th NLN 11th anniversary party. They are JUDY PARADIS from Frenchville, CAROLINE MAHANY from Easton, and NASON GRAHAM from Houlton. ▼

AIDS UPDATE

MAINE DATA as of Feb 28, 1991

232 CASES - 123 ARE DEAD

U.S. DATA as of Jan 31, 1991

164,129 CASES - 102,802 ARE DEAD

KNOW THE RISKS! PLAY SAFE!

continued from page 1

MAINE BILL FAILS

Many felt the final blow was dealt by Governor John McKernan who last fall said he would let the bill pass if the legislature approved it; now he changed his tune. The day before the vote in the House he announced he would veto the bill unless it required a referendum of the people. (This "new song" reminds this editor of McKernan's pre- and then post-election claims about the state budget.)

Since the sessions of the Maine Legislature are two years in length, the next chance for passage is 1993; McKernan will be in his final year in office at that time. ▼

Communiqué

COMMUNIQUÉ publié dix fois par année par NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD, une organisation pour la communauté lesbienne-gaie-bisexuelle au nord-ouest du Nouveau Brunswick et au nord du Maine (les comtés Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton-Aroostook). **ABONNEMENTS** - 10\$ par année. **COTISATION NLN** - 15\$ par année, dans lequel inclus la subscription. Les fond E-U et canadiennes sont acceptés au par. Ceux qui ont de la difficulté financièrement, des paiements à terme peut être organisée. NLN est une organisation a but non-lucratif; toutes donations sont taxe deductible aux E-U seulement. Les tarifs de publicité dans le COMMUNIQUÉ sont disponible. Vos commentaires et contributions sont les bienvenue. COMMUNIQUÉ is published ten times yearly by NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD, an organization serving the lesbian-gay-bisexual community of northern Maine and northwestern New Brunswick (Aroostook-Madawaska-Victoria-Carleton counties). **SUBSCRIPTIONS** - \$10 per year. **NLN MEMBERSHIP** - \$15 per year, which includes a subscription. U.S. and Canadian funds are accepted at par. Low-income people may make arrangements to pay in installments. NLN is a non-profit organization; all donations are U.S. tax-deductible. Advertising rates in COMMUNIQUÉ are available upon request. Your comments and contributions are welcome.

Gay/Lesbian G·U·I·D·E Lesbienne/Gai

NORTHERN LAMBDA NORD (NLN), CP/POB 990, Caribou, Maine 04736 USA. Gay-Lesbian Phoneline/Télépai - 207.498-2088

AROOSTOOK AREA GAY/LESBIAN AA GROUP meets Sundays, 7pm (Maine time) in Madawaska. Groupe bilingue/bilingual group. Call NLN Phoneline, 207.498-2088 to contact.

AM CHOFSI Maine Jewish group, meets monthly; 207.871-1014 (Bob)

DOWNEAST LESBIAN GAY ORGANIZATION (DELGO), Unitarian Church, 126 Union Street, Bangor 04401, 942-6503

DIGNITY/MAINE Catholic group, POB 8113, Portland 04104

GAIS & LESBIENNES DE MONCTON/ GAYS & LESBIANS OF MONCTON (GLM) CP/POB 7102, Riverview E1B 1V0, 506.858-1013

GAY/LESBIAN ALLIANCE University of Southern Maine, 92 Bedford Street, Portland 04102, 207.780-4085

GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK POB 212, Bangor 04401, 862-5907/866-7958

GAY/LESBIAN PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP Portland, 780-4085/772-4741

GROUPE GAIE DE L'UNIVERSITE LAVAL (GGUL) CP 2500, Pavillon Lemieux, Cité Universitaire, Sainte-Foy, Québec G1K 7P4, 418.648-2751

HARBOR MASTERS, INC. leather-levi group, POB 4044, Portland 04104

INTEGRITY Episcopalian group, St. Matthew's Church, 18 Union Street, Hallowell 04347, 623-3041/845-2985
LESBIAN/GAY COMMITTEE, MAINE CHAPTER, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS POB 5112, Station A, Portland 04102

MAINE BISEXUAL PEOPLE'S NETWORK POB 1792, Portland 04104, 874-6596 (leave message)

MAINE LESBIAN-GAY POLITICAL ALLIANCE POB 232, Hallowell 04347

NEW BRUNSWICK COALITION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REFORM/LA COALITION POUR LA REFORME DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK POB/CP 1556, Station/Succursale A, Fredericton E3B 5G2

OUR PAPER: A Voice for Lesbians and Gaymen in Maine, published monthly, 9 Deering Street, POB 10744, Portland 04104, 761-0733

OUTRIGHT: Portland Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth, age 22 and under, POB 5028, Station A, Portland 04102, 774-HELP/774-TALK

PARENTS & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS & GAYS (P-FLAG), POB 2080, Great Island, Brunswick 04011, 725-4769/729-0519/623-2349

PWA (People With AIDS) COALITION OF MAINE 377 Cumberland Avenue, Portland 04101, 773-8500

WILDE-STEIN CLUB Memorial Union, University of Maine, Orono 04469